

# **HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY**

**Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment**

Tel: 07957 154794 E-mail: [hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com](mailto:hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com)  
VAT Reg No 926 9271 93  
(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)



## **HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND REPTILE PRESENCE – ABSENCE SURVEY, TWO PLOTS OF LAND AT MENAI AVENUE, CROESERW.**

**On behalf of**

**TAI TARIAN**

**February 2026**

Ref: HE/04/2025  
Issue 4

### **Copyright and Non-Disclosure Notice**

The contents and layout of this report are subject to copyright owned by Hawkeswood Ecology (© Hawkeswood Ecology 2025) save to the extent that copyright has been legally assigned by us to another. To the extent that we own the copyright in this report, it may not be copied or used without our prior written agreement for any purpose other than the purpose indicated in this report.

The methodology (if any) contained in this report is provided to you in confidence and must not be disclosed or copied to third parties without the prior written agreement of Hawkeswood Ecology. Disclosure of that information may constitute an actionable breach of confidence or may otherwise prejudice our commercial interests. Any third party who obtains access to this report by any means will, in any event, be subject to the Third Party Disclaimer set out below.

### **Third Party Disclaimer**

Any disclosure of this report to a third party is subject to this disclaimer. The report was prepared by Hawkeswood Ecology at the instruction of, and for use by, our client(s) named on the front of the report. It does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. Hawkeswood Ecology excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted all liability whatsoever for any loss or damage howsoever arising from reliance on the contents of this report. We do not however exclude our liability (if any) for personal injury or death resulting from our negligence, for fraud or any other matter in relation to which we cannot legally exclude liability.

We confirm that in preparing this Report we have exercised reasonable skill and care, taking into account the project objectives, the agreed scope of the work, prevailing site conditions and the degree of manpower and resources allocated to the project.

All habitat and protected species surveys present a ‘snapshot’ of conditions existing and species present, or considered having potential to be present, at the time of survey. Many species are mobile and distributions can vary across time. Results and findings presented in this report should be considered with these factors in mind.

Protected species surveys are recognised as having a ‘shelf life’ of two years maximum in normal circumstances. Surveys older than this are unlikely to be accepted by a Local Planning Authority or Natural Resources Wales as viable documentation without just cause or reason.

## CONTENTS

|     |                                  |    |
|-----|----------------------------------|----|
|     | Summary                          | 4  |
| 1.  | Introduction                     | 5  |
| 2.  | Methodology                      | 5  |
| 3.  | Surveyor Experience              | 6  |
| 4.  | Desktop Study                    | 6  |
| 5.  | Field Survey                     | 8  |
| 6.  | Discussion and Impact Assessment | 11 |
| 7.  | Relevant Legislation             | 13 |
| 8.  | Recommendations                  | 14 |
| 9.  | Conclusions                      | 14 |
| 10. | Bibliography                     | 14 |

### Figures:

Figure 1: Phase 1 Habitat Map

Figure 2: Approximate Locations of Reptile Refugia

### Appendices:

Appendix 1 Suitable Reptile Survey Conditions

## SUMMARY

Following a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) carried out by Hawkeswood Ecology in October 2024 Hawkeswood Ecology was instructed to carry out an updated grassland habitat assessment and reptile presence – absence survey on two plots of land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw. In addition, the Site was assessed for use by birds through the survey period. It is proposed to develop the two plots forming the Site for residential purposes.

The initial PEA was undertaken in October 2024 and found the Site to be three plots of recovering disturbed grassland with areas of dense and scattered scrub. It appears that buildings have been demolished on Plots 2 around 50 years ago and on Plot 3 around 2010. The PEA concluded that survey to assess the habitat value in the appropriate season should be undertaken at an appropriate time of year and that the plots supported vegetation that could support reptiles.

The recommended surveys were undertaken during 2025 by Hawkeswood Ecology using methodologies detailed within the report reflecting current best practice at the time of survey. The grassland assessment was carried out on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and the reptile presence – absence survey over a period from 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

The habitat assessment found no new species that would significantly change the habitat value of the Site; Montbretia (*Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*) was present on all both Plots with Himalayan balsam also occurring on Plot 2, they and will need to be carefully removed as a Schedule 9 species (Wildlife and Countryside (1981) Act as amended.

The reptile presence – absence survey found no evidence of reptile species on either of the Plots. Although a negative result cannot guarantee that reptiles are not present, it does indicate they are unlikely to be present on the land assessed.

Adventitious bird sightings were of typical woodland and urban species with no breeding birds (particularly ground nesting species identified that were associated with the land under assessment.

It is concluded that, with appropriate measures to address the requirement for biodiversity gain, there are no ecological features that would prevent the proposed development of the two Plots of land proceeding.

**The conclusions of this report are considered valid for three years in terms of grassland assessment and two years for protected species from the survey dates noted in Section 1 of the report.**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following earlier Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by Hawkeswood Ecology (HE) in October 2024, HE were further instructed to undertake recommended follow up surveys on two plots of land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw, Neath Port Talbot. The plots lie around a Grid reference centred on SS 86483 95269 and the Site is proposed for residential development. The Hawkeswood Ecology PEA, '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Plots 2 and 3, Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 1)*'. Hawkeswood Ecology – February 2026' should be read in conjunction with this report.
- 1.2 Hawkeswood Ecology found the plots to be dominated by modified grassland and all have varying amounts of woody scrub. The grassland types reported varied between poor semi-improved neutral to acid grassland mosaics. All were largely unmanaged and are on land subject to previous disturbance.
- 1.3 As the PEA was undertaken late in the season when many species may not have been visible, recommendations for further survey included an updated walk over of the grassland at an appropriate time of year. In addition it was considered that the Site supported suitable habitat for reptiles and a reptile presence – absence survey was recommended.
- 1.4 In addition any breeding use of the Site by birds was noted throughout the survey period.
- 1.5 The grassland assessment was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 with adventitious records made throughout the reptile survey period.
- 1.6 The reptile survey was undertaken over the period of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 with the mats laid out on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### *Habitat Assessment*

- 2.1 The assessment consisted of a walk over survey of the Site; species were identified and their abundance noted using the DAFOR abundance scale.

### *Reptiles*

- 2.2 The reptile presence/absence survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines given in The Herpetofauna Worker's Manual (JNCC, 2003) and Froglife Advice Sheet no. 10, '*Reptile Survey, an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation.*' (1999).
- 2.3 Felt mats were used as refugia and placed into position on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The refugia were visited on seven occasions in suitable weather conditions as described in the referenced published guidance, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Appendix 1, courtesy of Chris Gleed-Owen, demonstrates suitable weather conditions and timing for survey throughout the reptilian activity period of March to October.

- 2.4 A total of 22 refugia were used across suitable areas of the Site; any other potential refugia, either natural or from dumped materials near the Site boundary, were also checked. Approximate locations of the placed refugia are shown in Figure 5. The refugia were placed across the Site, and where whenever possible in locations that would warm up in the sun and provide a favourable place for reptiles to warm up under or bask upon at some point during the day.
- 2.5 The total survey area was approximately 0.6 hectares, Plots 2 and 3 are both on generally flat ground. The Froglife guidelines suggest placing 5-10 refugia per hectare for adequate survey. The density of 22 refugia used over an area of approximately 0.6 hectares at this Site gives a density of approximately 40 refugia per hectare. Using a higher number of refugia than the recommendation plus the longer survey period increased the chances of finding any animals present. The breakdown of number of refugia on each Plot is shown below in Table 1.:

**Table 1: Number of refugia on each Plot**

| Plot | Approximate Size (HA) | Number of Refugia |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2    | 0.28                  | 17                |
| 3    | 0.33                  | 15                |

#### *Constraints*

- 2.6 No specific constraints were noted.

### **3. SURVEYOR EXPERIENCE**

- 3.1 The surveyor and report author is Eric Hawkeswood. Eric has many years experience of broad habitat and detailed botanical and species surveying. Eric has been an active member of the Brecknock Bat Group since 1999 and been involved in a number of long running surveys within the county. He has been a professional in the nature conservation field for thirty five years formerly working as Reserves Manager and Conservation Officer at Gwent Wildlife Trust and Woodland Manager for the Ruperra Conservation Trust. Eric has worked as an Ecological Consultant as joint proprietor of Hawkeswood Ecology since 2001.

### **4 DESKTOP STUDY**

- 4.1 A desktop survey was undertaken by Hawkeswood Ecology and is reported fully in the January 2024 PEA.
- 4.2 Reptiles reported are common lizard (200 metres), grass snake (500 metres) and slow worm (700 metres). Adder is reported from the 1 kilometre square the Site is located in.

- 4.3 Plot 2 lies within Parc Croeserw SINC which is cited for a mosaic of habitats including lowland heath, lowland meadow and purple moor-grass and rush pasture.

## 5 FIELD SURVEY

### *Habitat Assessment*

- 5.1 The plots were originally surveyed in October 2024, past the best season for habitat assessment, limiting classification and meaning some species may not have been visible at the time of survey.
- 5.2 The in season assessment took place on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in fine weather conditions. It was found prior to the assessment that the plots had been previously developed with demolitions occurring on Plot 2 around 40/50 years ago and on Plot 3 within the last 15 years. Both plots were dominated by grasses with Plot 3 a grassland with a mix of vegetation suggesting a tendency trending to a marshy grassland over time.
- 5.3 The Plots are originally described in the PEA “*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Plots 2 and 3, Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 1). Hawkeswood Ecology – February 2026*”. This report specifically looked at any change in the floristic value of the Plots in the main growing season.

### *Plot 2*

- 5.4 Plot 2 is a large area of levelled land with a north facing bank and footpath at the southwestern boundary and another north facing bank towards its northern boundary. It is dominated by grassland with frequently occurring scrub and is damp apparently due to the nature of the flat plateau and poor drainage rather than the substrate. Previously this area supported flats which were demolished around 1985.
- 5.5 The majority of the Site is dominated by grassland with species that are not typical of any particular grassland type (TN1). A further 17 species were identified here with only rosebay willowherb, red clover, common sedge, field horsetail and male fern occurring with local frequency. The potentially invasive shrub Himalayan honeysuckle was also recorded in this Plot.
- 5.11 At Target Note 2 a further 9 species were identified of which red fescue occurred frequently and bilberry with local frequency.

### *Plot 3*

- 5.12 Plot 3 is the largest of the three plots, bounded to the north by the A4063 and to the south by Menai Avenue it has housing to the east and west. It consists of a largely flat piece of ground which formerly supported housing, demolished around 2010 -2012. It is rank and dominated by largely neutral grassland and heavily disturbed with a wet area in the centre which may hold standing water occasionally.
- 5.13 At Target Note 3 the habitat remains best described as poor semi-improved. Only a further 5 species were identified from the Site. Dominant species were soft rush, cocksfoot, creeping buttercup and false oat-grass which were locally abundant. Lady’s mantle was also present here but appears to be a garden escape. At Target Note 4 a further 7 species were identified including locally frequent common marsh bedstraw and Yorkshire fog and frequently occurring false oat-grass.

- 5.14 Target Notes 5 and 6 showed no change from the initial survey, however a houseowner appears to be managing the land at Target Note 6 to Menai Avenue by regular mowing which has reduced the amount of flowering bird's-foot trefoil present.

#### *Summary*

- 5.15 The in season assessment of the Site has identified a number of new species, most of which occur rarely or occasionally in parts of the plots. Given the non-typical mix of species recorded and the land use history it is considered to best describe the wider Site as being Post-Industrial. However, when measured against species lists in Guidelines for Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales it remains the case that the plots do not meet the requirements for classification as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) based on the survey data gained. This includes the area surveyed at Plot 2 which forms part of the larger Parc Croeserw SINC and should be considered in that wider context. The Phase 1 map remains as that originally compiled for the PEA in 2024, however it is now considered that the plots are best described as 'Post-Industrial land'.

#### *Fauna*

- 5.16 Faunal species observed during the survey were limited to a very small number of bird species with only blackcap representing a species not noted in the original 2024 survey.

#### *Reptiles*

- 5.17 Thirty felt mats were placed out on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The refugia were visited on seven occasions in suitable weather conditions as described in the referenced published guidance (see Appendix 1), from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The conditions of survey are given in Table 2 below.

| <b>Table 2: Weather conditions and time of survey</b> |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| 2/7/25                                                | 8.00 am, 16C, Bright with cloud clearing in a fresh NW breeze.                                  |
| 8/7/25                                                | 8.00 am, 13C, Cloudy with sunny intervals, light NW breeze, dry.                                |
| 14/7/25                                               | 8.00 am, 17C, cloudy and humid with some sunny intervals, dry and still.                        |
| 16/7/25                                               | 9.00 am, 16C, cloud clearing, becoming sunny, light SW breeze, dry.                             |
| 18/7/25                                               | 9.30 am, 16C, cloud breaking after cooler night and early morning shower. Light SW breeze, dry. |
| 21/7/25                                               | 8.30 am, 15C, Cloud with sunny intervals, Light NW breeze, dry.                                 |
| 25/7/25                                               | 8.00 am, 14C, Cirrus clouds clearing and becoming sunny. Sill to light W breeze, dry.           |

- 5.18 Over the course of the survey visits no reptile species were identified from any of the plots. No amphibian species were noted or found under refugia.
- 5.19 The survey enjoyed the benefit of not having mats disturbed throughout the survey period, an uncommon happening in a built up area. Figure 2 shows the approximate location of refugia placement for the survey.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The Site is now considered best described as Post-Industrial Land as this a more accurate representation of the previous land use and the non-typical species mixes noted. Like the original PEA of October 2024 it is considered the grasslands present are of poor semi-improved status.
- 6.2 The in-season assessment has reported largely low frequency species that were not seen during the initial survey, but none are of specific interest or importance to change the habitat value previously attributed. The plots do not qualify as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation when measured against the designation criteria for Post Industrial Land, or indeed against other important grassland habitat types.
- 6.3 It is important to note that although previously developed, the habitats on Site are developing and recovering. For example Plot 2 does show plants typical of acid grassland such as purple moor-grass and tormentil being present in a vegetation that shows a mix of species generally untypical of either neutral or acidic grassland.
- 6.4 Plot 2 lies within the Parc Croeserw SINC which is cited for lowland heath, lowland meadow and purple moor-grass and rush habitats. As mentioned in paragraph 6.3 purple-moor grass is present as are common heather and bilberry. These are generally confined to the boundaries of what would have been the development platform supporting the now demolished flats, montbretia is also common in this area. Current sketch layouts would suggest this area will not be developed, it should be clarified if they can be retained and protected through the development with safe removal of montbretia where necessary. This would limit the significance of the development upon the Parc Croeserw SINC.
- 6.5 All of the plots support montbretia (*Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*), and Himalayan balsam is present in Plot 2, these plant species are notified under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Safe removal and disposal of this plant must be a consideration of any development as the spreading of this species in the wild is an illegal act.

### *Reptiles*

- 6.6 The results of the reptile survey showed no evidence of reptiles on either of the Plots even though apparently suitable habitat was present. Although a negative result cannot prove the absence of reptiles, it does strongly suggest they are not present in these areas.
- 6.7 A recommendation will be made to ensure that should reptiles be found at any point during the development the Ecological Clerk of Works will be called to the Site to advise on how best to proceed.

### *Birds*

- 6.8 The Site was not suspected of supporting ground nesting birds due to disturbance and as such a full survey was not considered necessary. Adventitious sightings during the survey period showed a disappointing record of birds locally with few species noted and none of

‘conservation significance’. As suspected, no ground nesting species were noted during on or adjacent to the plots over the course of the survey.

*Updated Characterisation of Impact*

- 6.9 Hawkeswood Ecology has seen the sketch proposals for the Site it appears that large areas of Plot 2 will remain largely unaffected by the development. Indeed the area of Target Note 6 in Plot 2 which supported heather and bilberry in not to be development area and should be protected from damage during the construction period (see para 6.4 above).
- 6.10 Given the findings of the further surveys reported here it is considered the proposed development will be of **no significant impact** in a local or wider context if the recommendations made in the original PEA and updated recommendations in this report are fully implemented.

*Ecosystem resilience*

- 6.11 Ecosystem resilience is discussed in the original PEA, ‘*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Three Plots of Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 2). Hawkeswood Ecology – July 2025*’. At that time the sketch layouts were not available and the requirement for further survey was outstanding. Whilst that section of the report remains valid (paragraphs 7.7 – 7.15), given below are updated considerations on the Ecosystem resilience of the area.
- 6.12 Diversity – Following re-survey the Plots are still considered to have a low diversity of flora they do not match any priority habitat types. Whilst the in season assessment has extended the flora species list it has not identified any significant botanical species.
- 6.13 Extent - the total area of the three plots is approximately 0.84 hectares, the largest plot is 0.33 hectares, the smallest 0.21 hectares. Even where potential habitat types such as acid grassland or heath exist they are small and unlikely to be viable without active management. Plot 2 lies in Parc Croeserw SINC and as such needs to meet the requirements of Neath Port Talbot Policy EN6 (See Section 7, Relevant Legislation and Policy).
- 6.14 Condition – neither of the plots is under any form of management currently. Plot 3 in particular suffers from disturbance and contains a large bonfire site. Over the course of the reptile survey visits it became clear that both of the Plots are used to a greater or lesser extent for dumping garden and other waste.
- 6.15 Connectivity – whilst none of the plots offer direct connectivity they do allow transport of animals from the estate to open countryside or into Parc Croeserw. The sketch layout currently being considered shows all of the Plots being only partially developed. Appropriate landscaping should provide continuing connectivity for species passing through the area, particularly given the open countryside to the north of the wider Site.

## 7 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- 7.1 This is discussed in detail in the PEA ‘*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Three Plots of Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 2). Hawkeswood Ecology – July 2025*’.
- 7.2 Even though no protected habitat or species have been found on Site, should they be found during any subsequent development appropriate action must be undertaken to avoid any conflict with current regulations.

### *Invasive species*

- 7.3 *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* (Montbretia) has been confirmed as present on both plots and Himalayan balsam has been identified from Plot 2. Measures will be in place to prevent their spread during any future development at the Site. As species listed in Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) these plants must not be impacted from any development in such a manner that the spread of it in the wild is encouraged.

### *Neath Port Talbot Policies*

- 7.4 Paragraph 5.3.34 of Policy EN6 states ‘*Where harm to biodiversity sites is unavoidable, effective mitigation measures will be required to ensure that there is no reduction in the overall value of the area or feature. Where mitigation is not possible, compensation measures will normally be required to offset harm as far as practicable. However, compensation measures are considered to be a last resort option.*’
- 7.5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance (May 2018) comments that ‘*Policy EN6 sets out the requirements for developments that would affect regionally and locally designated sites, habitats and species. Planning proposals that would not conserve or enhance the natural heritage importance of the site would need to comply with criterion 2 of the policy (i.e. show that the development could not reasonably be located elsewhere and the benefits of the development would outweigh the natural heritage importance of the site).*’
- 7.6 If the requirement to demonstrate that a proposed development outweighs the biodiversity value of the Site is met, there remains a need to agree appropriate off-Site mitigation to counter the loss of natural heritage resulting from the development of the Site.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The recommendations made in the Preliminary Ecological Assessment '*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Plots 2 and 3, Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 1).* Hawkeswood Ecology – February 2026' remain valid following the completion of the recommended further survey.
- 8.2 The Construction Environmental Management Plan will identify good practices to prevent the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species found on Site.
- 8.3 Following production of a final layout plan, the locations of biodiversity enhancement schemes such as bird and bat boxes will be identified.
- 8.4 Where possible the existing habitat described in TN 2 in Plot 2 should be protected from the development. If this cannot be done some other form of compensation may be required in regard to the loss to Parc Croeserw SINC.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The Site has not been shown to support significant habitats or species, the reptile presence-absence survey failing to identify the presence of any reptiles on Site. The recommendations made in the original PEA remain valid and should be adhered to should the development proceed.
- 9.2 The Site supports a species poor recovering habitat best described as Post-Industrial Land which is reverting to species poor grassland habitats. The plots all showed differing ecological characteristics due to edaphic conditions which have been markedly affected by previous developments.
- 9.3 If at any time during development protected species are identified from the Site the ECW will be called in to advise on how best to proceed.
- 9.4 No major constraints to the proposed development are foreseen if the recommendations made are implemented.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017, HMG.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Environment Act (Wales) 2016

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024. Welsh Government

Mitchell Jones, A J & Robertson C J (Eds) *Bat workers Manual*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2004

Bat Conservation Trust (2016), *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Froglife, 1999, ‘*Reptile Survey, an introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*’, Froglife Advice Sheet 10, Froglife, Halesworth.

NAARS, 2008, ‘*Survey Pack*’, The Herpetological Trust.

Gent. T. & Gibson, S. (2003) *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*, JNCC

*Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Plots 2 and 3, Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw (Issue 1). Hawkeswood Ecology – February 2026*

**FIGURE 1**  
**PHASE 1 HABITAT MAP**  
**(as in *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Plots 2 and 3, Land at Menai Avenue, Croeserw***  
***(Issue 1). Hawkeswood Ecology – February 2026'*)**

Habitat Assessment and Reptile Presence – Absence Survey, Land at Menai Avenue.  
Hawkeswood Ecology – September 2025

Figure 1: Phase 1 Map

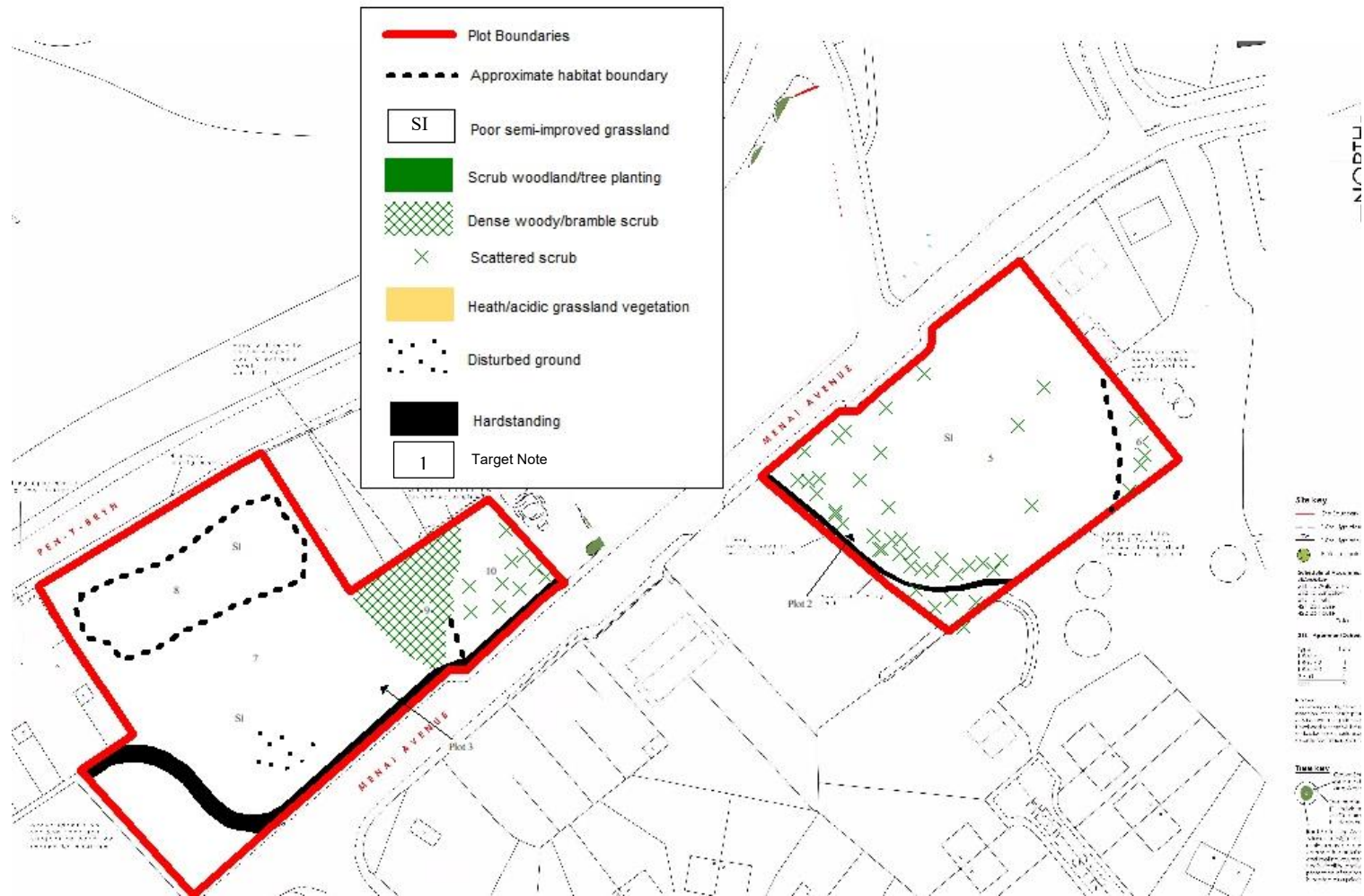
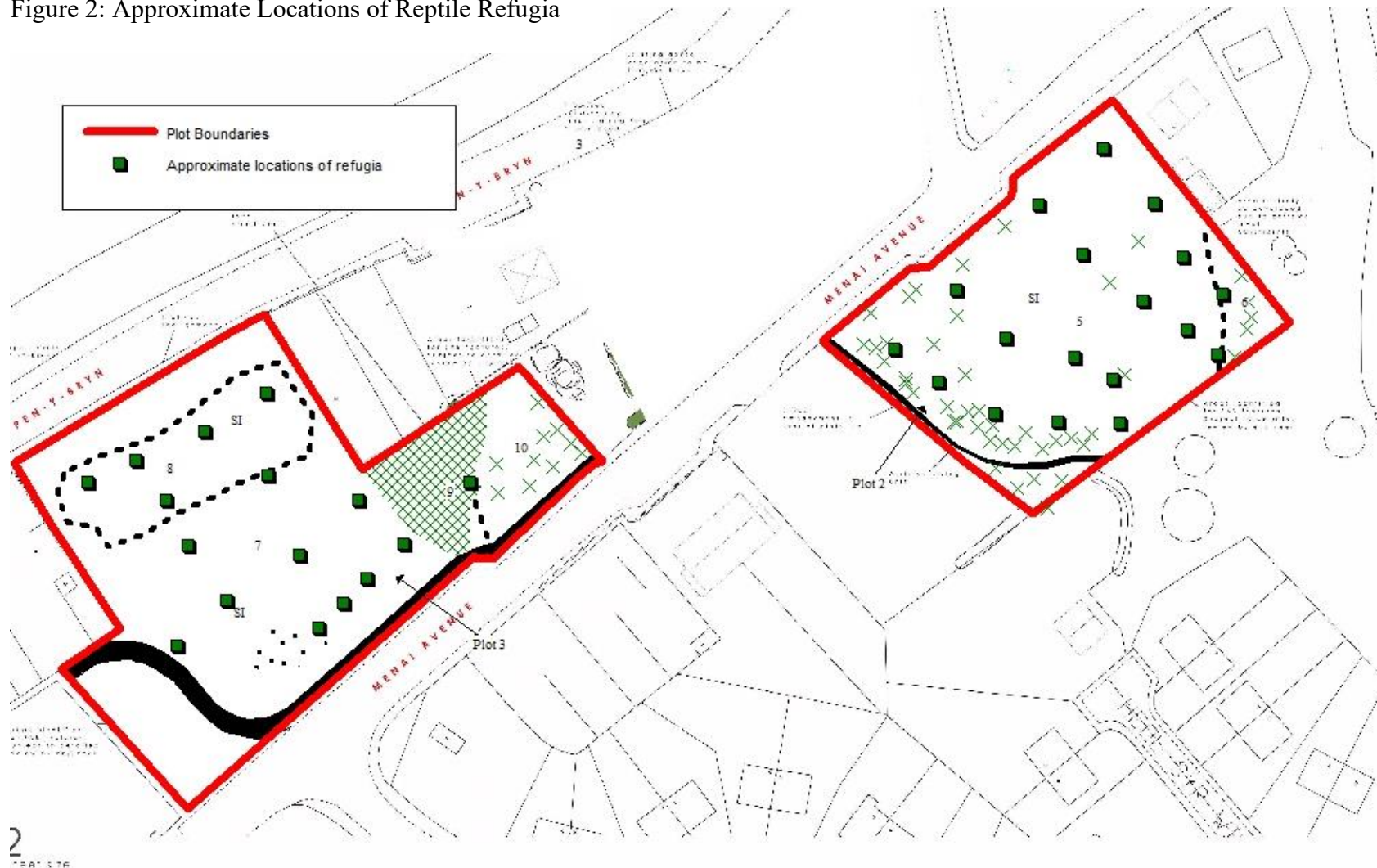


**FIGURE 2:  
APPROXIMATE LOCATIONS OF REPTILE REFUGIA**

Figure 2: Approximate Locations of Reptile Refugia



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **DAFOR SCALE OF COVER ABUNDANCE**

The DAFOR scale is used as a simple measure of cover abundance for individual plant species within a habitat. The scale is as follows:

- D Dominant
- A Abundant
- F Frequent
- O Occasional
- R Rare
- (L Locally – sometimes used as a prefix to the above)

## APPENDIX 2 HABITAT SURVEY TARGET NOTES

### *Introduction*

Species identified during the in season walk over only are identified in red type. Both Plots 2 and 3 have been subject to previous housing development, Plot 2 was demolished in the 1980s and Plot 3 between 2010-12.

### *Plot 2*

1. A levelled area with a steep bank and footpath to the western boundary. Dominated by grasses with scattered scrub and unmanaged. Has the appearance of a neutral grassland that is being colonised by more acidic loving species such a purple moor-grass and common heather, damp. Forms part of Parc Croeserw SINC). Species noted were:

| <i>Species</i>               | <i>Frequency</i> |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Bird's-foot trefoil          | LA               |
| <b>Bramble</b>               | <b>O</b>         |
| Cocksfoot                    | A                |
| Common bent                  | F                |
| <b>Common cat's-ear</b>      | <b>O</b>         |
| Common field speedwell       | O                |
| Common heather               | LA               |
| <b>Common sedge</b>          | <b>O/LF</b>      |
| <b>Common vetch</b>          | <b>R</b>         |
| Cotoneaster sp.              | R                |
| Creeping bent                | LA               |
| <b>Creeping buttercup</b>    | <b>O</b>         |
| <b>Creeping thistle</b>      | <b>O</b>         |
| <b>Crested dog's tail</b>    | <b>O</b>         |
| <i>Crocsmia</i>              | LF               |
| Dog rose                     | R                |
| Dogwood                      | R                |
| False oat-grass              | F                |
| <b>Field horsetail</b>       | <b>LF</b>        |
| Garden privet                | R                |
| <b>Germander speedwell</b>   | <b>O</b>         |
| Hairy tare                   | LF               |
| Hard fern                    | R                |
| Hawthorn                     | O                |
| <b>Himalayan honeysuckle</b> | <b>R</b>         |
| Holly                        | R                |
| <b>Lady's mantle</b>         | <b>R</b>         |
| Larch                        | R                |
| <b>Male fern</b>             | <b>LF</b>        |
| <b>Meadow buttercup</b>      | <b>O</b>         |

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Purple moor-grass     | O  |
| Ragwort               | O  |
| Red clover            | LF |
| Red fescue            | LF |
| Reed canary-grass     | LF |
| Ribwort plantain      | A  |
| Rosebay willowherb    | LA |
| Silverweed            | LF |
| Soft rush             | O  |
| Southern marsh orchid | R  |
| Spiked sedge          | R  |
| Tormentil             | LF |
| Yorkshire fog         | A  |

2. Bank at east of Site with an easterly aspect. Species noted were:

| <i>Species</i>          | <i>Frequency</i> |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Ash                     | R                |
| Bilberry                | LF               |
| Broad leaved willowherb | O                |
| Common bent             | F                |
| Common figwort          | R                |
| Common heather          | F                |
| Common sedge            | O                |
| Crocsmia                | LA               |
| Dandelion               | O                |
| Goat willow             | O                |
| Gorse                   | LF               |
| Hawthorn                | R                |
| Meadow buttercup        | O                |
| Purple moor-grass       | F                |
| Red fescue              | F                |
| Rosebay willowherb      | LA               |
| Soft rush               | F                |
| Tormentil               | LF               |

*Plot 3*

3. Rank species poor neutral grassland, heavily disturbed and with a recently used bonfire, damp, unmanaged. Species recorded were:

| <i>Species</i>         | <i>Frequency</i> |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Broad leaved dock      | O                |
| Cocksfoot              | LA               |
| Common field speedwell | O                |

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Common sorrel         | O  |
| Compact rush          | O  |
| Creeping buttercup    | LA |
| Creeping cinquefoil   | O  |
| Creeping thistle      | R  |
| <i>Crocosmia</i>      | O  |
| Dandelion             | O  |
| False oat-grass       | LA |
| Field horsetail       | O  |
| Field mouse ear       | O  |
| Geranium sp.          | O  |
| Hogweed               | O  |
| Meadow buttercup      | R  |
| Red clover            | LF |
| Red fescue            | A  |
| Reed canary grass     | LF |
| Ribwort plantain      | LF |
| Soft rush             | LA |
| Southern marsh orchid | R  |
| Sweet vernal grass    | F  |
| Yorkshire fog         | F  |

4. Very wet area in the grassland of TN1 dominated by soft rush with bare ground. Creeping buttercup and field horsetail are locally abundant. Species recorded were:

| <i>Species</i>        | <i>Frequency</i> |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Bird's-foot trefoil   | O                |
| Broad leaved dock     | O                |
| Common marsh bedstraw | LF               |
| Common sorrel         | F-LA             |
| Compact rush          | O                |
| Creeping buttercup    | LA               |
| False oat-grass       | F                |
| Field horsetail       | LA               |
| Hedge woundwort       | R                |
| Hogweed               | O                |
| Soft rush             | D                |
| Yellow flag           | LF               |
| Yorkshire fog         | O/LF             |

5. Woody and bramble scrub with occasional semi-mature goat willow and rarely occurring garden privet, bramble is abundant. Other species noted were frequent great willowherb and occasional hogweed and three semi-mature cypress trees.

6. Area of grassland similar to TN7 but has been planted with rowan; the planting has largely failed. Bird's-foot trefoil is locally frequent and silverweed occasional. **On resurvey it appears this area is now being regularly mown by an adjacent home owner.**

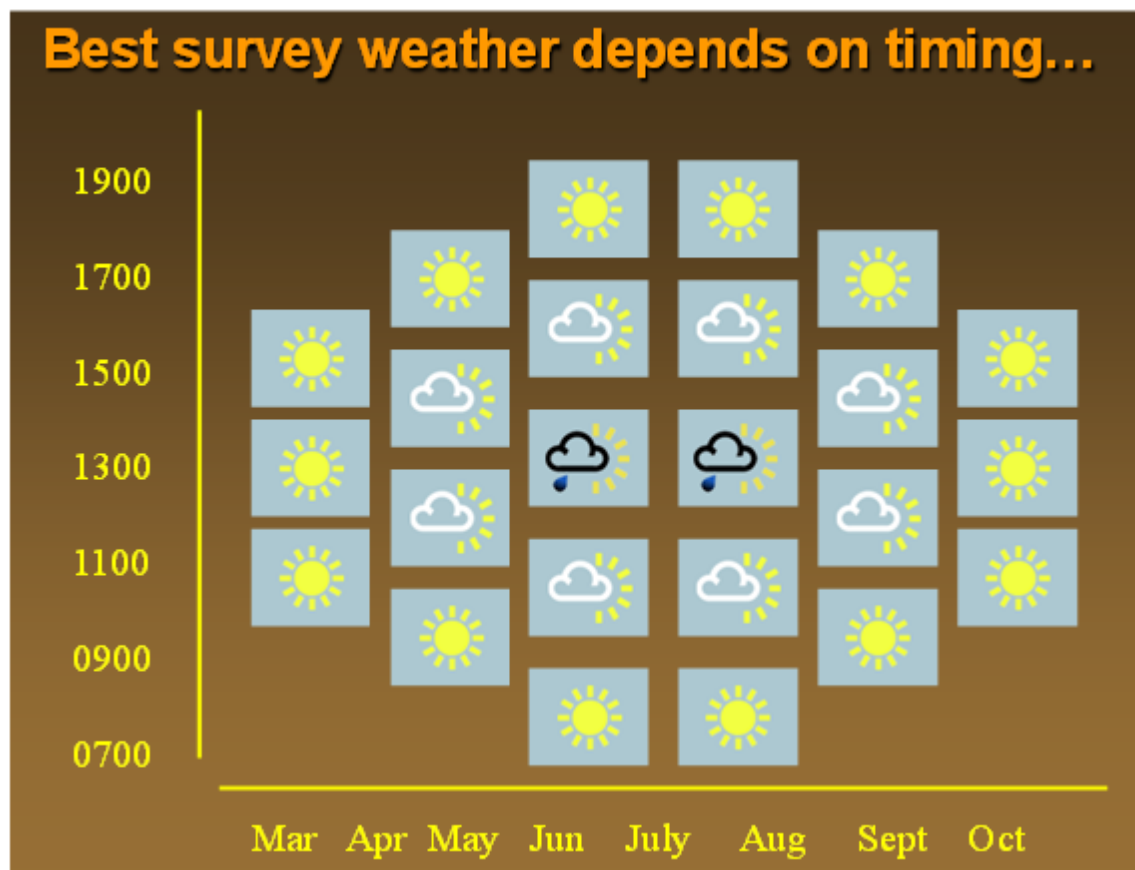
**APPENDIX 3**  
**LIST OF PLANT SPECIES RECORDED IN THE SURVEY**

| <i>Species</i>          | <i>Scientific Name</i>                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Beech                   | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>                 |
| Bilberry                | <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>             |
| Bird's-foot trefoil     | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>              |
| Bramble                 | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>                |
| Broad leaved dock       | <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>              |
| Broad-leaved willowherb | <i>Epilobium montanum</i>              |
| Cocksfoot               | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>              |
| Common bent             | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>             |
| Common cat's-ear        | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>            |
| Common field speedwell  | <i>Veronica persicaria</i>             |
| Common heather          | <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                |
| Common marsh bedstraw   | <i>Gallium palustre</i>                |
| Compact rush            | <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i>            |
| Common sedge            | <i>Carex nigra</i>                     |
| Common sorrel           | <i>Rumex acetosa</i>                   |
| Common vetch            | <i>Vicia sativa</i>                    |
| Cotoneaster sp.         | <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp                  |
| Creeping bent           | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>            |
| Creeping buttercup      | <i>Ranunculus repens</i>               |
| Creeping cinquefoil     | <i>Potentilla reptans</i>              |
| Creeping thistle        | <i>Cirsium arvense</i>                 |
| Crested dog's-tail      | <i>Cynosurus cristata</i>              |
| <i>Crocsmia</i>         | <i>Crocsmia</i> x <i>crocsmiiflora</i> |
| Cypress                 | <i>Cupressus</i> sp                    |
| Dandelion               | <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>            |
| Dog rose                | <i>Rosa canina</i>                     |
| Dogwood                 | <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>                |
| False oat-grass         | <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>           |
| Field horsetail         | <i>Equisetum arvense</i>               |
| Field mouse ear         | <i>Cerastium arvense</i>               |
| Foxglove                | <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>              |
| Garden privet           | <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>           |
| Geranium sp.            | <i>Geranium</i> sp                     |
| Germander speedwell     | <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>             |
| Goat willow             | <i>Salix caprea</i>                    |
| Gorse                   | <i>Ulex europaeus</i>                  |
| Hairy tare              | <i>Vicia hirsuta</i>                   |
| Hard fern               | <i>Blechnum spicant</i>                |
| Hawthorn                | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>              |
| Hedge woundwort         | <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>               |

Habitat Assessment and Reptile Presence – Absence Survey, Land at Menai Avenue.  
Hawkeswood Ecology – September 2025

|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Himalayan balsam      | <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>    |
| Himalayan honeysuckle | <i>Leycesteria formosa</i>       |
| Hogweed               | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>     |
| Holly                 | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>           |
| Larch                 | <i>Larix</i> sp                  |
| Lady's mantle         | <i>Alchemilla</i> sp             |
| Male fern             | <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>      |
| Marsh thistle         | <i>Cirsium palustre</i>          |
| Meadow buttercup      | <i>Ranunculus acris</i>          |
| Purple moor-grass     | <i>Molinia caerulea</i>          |
| Ragwort               | <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>          |
| Red clover            | <i>Trifolium pratense</i>        |
| Red fescue            | <i>Festuca rubra</i> agg         |
| Reed canary-grass     | <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>      |
| Ribwort plantain      | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>       |
| Rosebay willowherb    | <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>   |
| Rowan                 | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>          |
| Silverweed            | <i>Potentilla anserina</i>       |
| Soft rush             | <i>Juncus effusus</i>            |
| Southern marsh orchid | <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> |
| Spiked sedge          | <i>Carex spicata</i>             |
| Sweet vernal grass    | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>     |
| Tormentil             | <i>Potentilla erecta</i>         |
| Yellow flag           | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>          |
| Yorkshire fog         | <i>Holcus lanatus</i>            |

**APPENDIX 1**  
**SUITABLE REPTILE SURVEY CONDITIONS**



# HAWKESWOOD ECOLOGY

## Specialists in Ecological Survey and Assessment

Tel: 07957 154794 E-mail: [hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com](mailto:hawkeswoodecology@btinternet.com)  
(Proprietors: Niki and Eric Hawkeswood)

**A partnership of professionals delivering  
answers since 2001**

*Hawkeswood Ecology is an Ecological Consultancy offering a wide  
range of expertise in ecological survey and assessment across Wales*

